

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 20731 221815Z
ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ABF-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 /045 W
----- 095925 /70

R 221711Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1889
JCS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
NAMEMBASSY NICOSIA 333
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSULS ASMARA
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN
SIXTHFLT
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 20731

DEPARTMENT FOR AF, NEA, EUR, WLG; JCS FNWHJ-3; USCINCEUR
FOR J-2, J-3, J-5, J-6; CINCUSAFE FOR DOX

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AEMR
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SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION IN SIXTHFLT EXERCISES

REF: (A) STUTTGART 1720 (160730Z DEC 76), (B) STUTTGART
1628 (030959Z DEC 76)

1. AS EUCOM ELG REPS WERE INFORMED DURING NOVEMBER 23

PLANNING SESSION IN ROME, THIS EMBASSY IS WILLING AND ABLE TO PROVIDE THE SPACE REQUIRED FOR CPX WHICH WILL IMMEDIATELY PROCEED NEO EXERCISE, PHIBLEX I-77 IN JANUARY.

2. WE ALSO NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE EMBASSY HAS INSUFFICIENT COMMUNICATIONS ABILITY TO SIMULATE WITH MUCH REALISM THE MESSAGE EXCHANGES AND INTERPLAY WHICH WE UNDERSTAND CONSTITUTE THE CORE OF THE CPX.

3. WE THEREFOR REITERATE OUR SUGGESTION THAT, IF THE SIXTH FLEET UNITS TO BE INVOLVED IN PHIBLEX I-77 HAVE SUFFICIENT CAPABILITIES, THE CPX SHOULD BE HELD ABOARD SHIP. THIS SHOULD PROVIDE THE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM TO LEND AN AIR OF VERSIMILITUDE TO THE CPX. JUST AS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW IS PROVIDING MAXIMUM TIME FOR EMBASSY PARTICIPANTS TO MEET WITH SIXTH FLEET OFFICERS MOST DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF EVACUATION OPERATIONS, TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON PROBLEMS, AND TO PROVIDE FULL, FIRST-HAND EXPOSURE TO FLEET CAPABILITIES. THIS WAS A POINT MADE IN ROME'S 4346 (170916Z MAR 76)(NOTAL), PARTICULARLY PARA. 3 THEREOF.

4. FOREGOING SUGGESTION, IF IT PROVES FEASIBLE, WOULD OF COURSE REQUIRE SOME ADJUSTMENT TO PRESENT PLANNING FOR TRAVEL TO ROME AND MOVE TO THE SHIPS. PRESUMABLY ARRIVAL IN ROME WOULD BE ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 9 AND A FLIGHT TO THE SHIPS CONCERNED EITHER THAT DAY OR EARLY JANUARY 10.

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5. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT IT BE INFORMED PROMPTLY WHETHER SHIPBOARD CPX IS FEASIBLE AND WHETHER PLANNING WILL BE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY.

6. TELEGRAMS REQUESTING LODGING IN ROME ARE BEING RECEIVED, NECESSARY RESERVATIONS ARE BEING MADE, AND ADDRESSEES WILL BE INFORMED BY THE EMBASSY WEEK BEGINNING DECEMBER 27, IN LIGHT OF STATE OF PLAY CONCERNING FOREGOING SUGGESTIONS.

7. WE REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS THAT FUTURE TELEGRAMS TO EMBASSY ROME REQUESTING RESERVATIONS BE UNCLASSIFIED, PROVIDING TITLE AND TEXT OF SUCH MESSAGES DO NOT REVEAL NATURE AND PURPOSE OF TRAVEL.

8. IF CPX IS TO BE HELD IN ROME, TRAVELLERS WILL NOT RPT NOT BE MET AT AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL IN ROME, AND WILL BE ASKED TO MAKE THEIR OWN WAY TO HOTELS. RECOMMEND BUS

SERVICE FROM FIUMICINO AIRPORT TO DOWNTOWN AIR TERMINAL
AND TAXI TO HOTEL.BEAUDRY

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